花とゆめCOMICS

影に咲く花

友藤 結（ともふじ ゆう）

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ISBN978-4-592-19212-1

9784592192121

C9979 ¥400E

1929979004002

定価本体400円+税

雑誌43791-36

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白泉社

●収録作品

時は江戸初期。泰平の世を乱していたのは"影獣"と呼ばれる物の怪であった。異能を以て影獣を祓う影師として"半人前の烏"は、力を以て影獣を駆逐する"影狩人"の黒門一族に救われる。強い力を持つ一族に反発する烏だったが、彼の内に巣食う闇の存在を知って…!?

■花とゆめ掲載■

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作品かいせつ

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●友藤 結の本

影に咲く花

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KAGE NI SAKU HANA

(THE FLOWER WHICH BLOOMS IN SHADOWS)

TOMOFUJI YUU

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THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ACTUAL EVENTS OR LOCALES OR PERSONS, LIVING OR DEAD, IS ENTIRELY COINCIDENTAL.

KAGE NI SAKU HANA
影に咲く花
◆かげにさくはな◆
第一話
CHAPTER 1

ROAR
THE SILENCE OF THE NIGHT
RAOR
IS BROKEN BY THE ROARS OF MYSTERIOUS MONSTERS.
OOPS.
rustle
AH, GEEZ.
ON SUCH A BEAUTIFUL MOONLIT NIGHT...HOW UNREFINED.
sigh
CALM DOWN, KEMOMO.
WELL, YAKKO-SAN'S GETTING QUITE WORKED UP ABOUT THIS.
EVEN I...

HAVE A BIT OF AN
UNEASY FEELING.
IT'S HERE!
ON THE ROOF... THERE'S A SHADOW BEAST...!!
Waahh!
KYYAAAA!!
tap
tap
tap
GLARE

BAM
STAY BACK!
LEAVE THIS TO ME AND RUN!!
.....
.....
stare
T-thank you
Oh no...
My legs feel weak...
!!
JUMP

WHOOSH
KYAAAAA!!
!?
CLOSE CALL.
SUCH A TROU-BLESOME WOMAN.
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO HERE.

!!
ROAR
...CRAP
ROAR
struggle
HEY! DON'T DO UNNECESSARY THINGS!
I AM-
resists
Hey! Don't struggle! It's dangerous...
Woah!?
Toss
AH.
THUD

GYYAA
きゃあ
IT IS EARLY EDO
TENS OF YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE END OF WHAT WAS LATER CALLED THE DECISIVE BATTLE
(T/N SEKIGAHARA BATTLE)
あ
あ
AHHHH
あ
あ
THE THINGS THAT DISTURBED THE FOLLOWING PEACE
WERE MONSTERS CALLED "SHADOW BEASTS".
IT WORRIED THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN PEACE.
THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTACKED BY THE BEASTS ONLY INCREASED
EVEN THE CONSTABLES OF THE "SHADOW BEAST EXTERMINATION SOCIETY" THE SHOGUNATE CREATED COULDN'T DEAL WITH THEM
Sign: Tea house
YOU
HIBANA!!
GOOD GRIEF...!!
EVEN THOUGH WE MANAGED TO CHASE THE BEAST AWAY WITH FIRE,
YOU COULD HAVE GOTTEN SERIOUSLY INJURED!
IF THIS TRAVELLER HADN'T SAVED YOU THEN... I DON'T EVEN...
MUNCH
MUNCH

IT'S TSUGUMI. KURODA TSUGUMI.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID YOU'D FEED ME AS REPAYMENT.
EVEN SO, YOU'RE EATING TOO MUCH!!
YOU... UMM... WHAT WAS YOUR NAME?
Hn?
munch
もぐ
もぐ
もぐ

IN THESE PAST FEW DAYS, THAT BEAST HAS BEEN COMING INTO THE VILLAGE AND HAVE BEEN ATTACKING PEOPLE.
WITH PROTECTING THE TOWNS NEAR THE CASTLE, THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO COME DOWN TO TOWNS LIKE THIS.
THE HUNTERS WHO ARE IN CLANS HAVE THEIR HANDS FILLED
IF IT'S HIM THEN HE'LL BE ABLE TO HELP.
ASK HIM TO TAKE ON THE JOB, HIBANA.
YOU WON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING DANGEROUS
WELL, THAT IS SMART.
IF YOUR LEGS TURN TO JELLY AT THE LEVEL OF A BEAST LIKE THAT
SLAM
YOU WON'T HAVE ENOUGH LIVES EVEN IF-
I APOLOGISE FOR THE FACT YOU GOT HURT.
I'M SORRY.
BUT I WON'T THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME!

KOU
slide
HIBANA!
I'M SORRY. PLEASE DON'T THINK BADLY OF HER.
WHAT'S WITH THAT ATTITUDE?
HEY, OLD MAN, HOW DO YOU DISCIPLINE YOUR DAUGHTER?
THAT CHILD IS BEING RAISED AT THE TEMPLE.
HER FATHER WAS KNOWN IN THIS AREA AS OUR ONLY EXORCIST,
CALLED ICHIYANAGI SOUJIN.
A FEW YEARS AGO, HE WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE EMPEROR AND HEADED TOWARDS EDO. ONLY A SMALL BOX RETURNED.
HIBANA HAS BEEN IN RECKLESS FIGHTS WITH THE BEASTS
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S TO REVENGE HIS DEATH OR TO TAKE HIS PLACE BUT,
THEY WERE ORIGINALLY JUST FATHER AND CHILD.
EVER SINCE HER FATHER'S DEATH, JUST LIKE THE OTHER NIGHT
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG

SHE WON'T LISTEN EVEN IF WE TRY TO STOP HER. IT'S QUITE TROUBLE-SOME
TRIP
step
step
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? SO CLUMSY.
TAKE A LITTLE MORE CARE-...
I'M SOR-RY!
DO YOU NEED SOME-THING AGAIN?
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!!
!!
POOMP
tumble
bush

!?
W-WHAT?
DON'T STIMULATE HIM.
KEMOMO IS TIMID AND SENSITIVE.
GIGI
IF YOU EXCITE HIM THEN HE CAN'T FEEL THE PRESENCE OF THE BEASTS WHEN IT'S IMPORTANT
THAT'S TRADE INTERFERENCE.
GIGI
なでなで
FAT FAT
POPPIE
... I GET IT...
PASS HIM TO ME FOR A BIT.
I
O
SHAA~

...HERE.
HE'S CALMED DOWN NOW.
EVEN I CAN DO THIS MUCH.
I SEE.
THE EXORCISTS' POWER IS INHERITED FROM GENERATION TO THE NEXT THROUGH BLOOD.
THAT THING THAT CALMS AGITATED BEASTS, EH.
I THOUGHT YOU'D KNOW.
THE HEAD VILLAGE MAN TALKS TOO MUCH.
stop
MY POWERS ARE WEAK AND IF I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH CONTACT THEN IT WON'T WORK.
IT ONLY WORKS ON SMALL BEASTS LIKE THIS ONE. IT HAS NO SUBSTANTIAL USE.
...FATHER NEVER TAUGHT ME ABOUT AN EXORCISTS WORK...
WELL, OF COURSE HE WOULDN'T.
"FATHER, NO DON'T GO."
"I'LL GO TOO! I'LL BEAT THE BAD BEASTS!"
"WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE."
"BE A GOOD GIRL AND LISTEN TO THE MONKS."

EVEN I WOULDN'T WANT SUCH A TROUBLESOME GIRL TO GET INVOLVED IN MY WORK.
BUT THAT POWER IS LIKE A REMINDER OF YOUR DAD RIGHT?
CONSIDER YOUR DAD'S FEELINGS JUST A LITTLE.
WHA-!
BE PROUD OF IT.
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
QUIT MEDDLING!!
FWIP
...GEEZ.
NOT CUTE AT ALL.

I'm Tomofuji Yuu.
Nice to meet you

Kage ni Saku Hana
Part ①

This story started out with my manager's advice "Let's go with a guy who has shadows/mysterious". It was my first serialisation in Hana Yume Magazine. I have memories of drawing this while trembling

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE...?
TSUGUMI?!
MY JOB. NIGHT WATCH.
JUST TO MAKE SURE A CERTAIN COWARD WON'T NONCHALANTLY APPEAR BEFORE A BEAST.
Hn?
ぐしっ
sniff
!
YOU...!

...BUT THEN, WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO SLEEP?
I TOOK A NAP AT THE TEAHOUSE DURING LUNCH.
Just a bit
I DON'T USUALLY SLEEP AT NIGHT ANYWAY..
Why do you care so much...?
JUMP
I wonder...
W-WHO DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?!
Coward?
WHY ARE YOU...
.....

A NAP...
IS IT EVEN ALRIGHT TO REMOVE THE BANDAGING?!
FU MI
TH-THAT'S BECAUSE THAT WOUND.
...WAS MY FAULT.
WHAT? ARE YOU WORRIED NOW?
So slow
I FEEL BAD ABOUT IT.
...I'M SORRY.
THE WOUND IS NOTHING NOW.
Completely recovered
Eh?!
WHAT KIND OF BODY DO YOU HAVE?!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO WORRY ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT,
WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF A LITTLE MORE.
KNOCK
GET BACK INTO YOUR FUTON AND SLEEP.

SEE YA.
JUMP
...Tsugumi
Isn't really a bad guy.
...But
I just can't...
Worrying about myself
AH.
Think like that.

He's napping in such a place like this?
sneak up
...Tsugumi.
wobble
Gosh
WHAT IS IT?
HUH?
WHAT?
...Tsugumi?
Is he having a night-mare...
I wonder what's wrong...
tap tap
gasp

E-EEEH-HHHH!!?
W-wh-What's going on?!
Is he half awake?!
Geez...
...Huh?

Is it my imagination...?
It's like his breathing calmed down a lot more than before.
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THAT'S MY LINE!!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO SLEEP HERE THEN SLEEP PROPERLY!!
W-wait!
Even if Tsugumi's calmed down,
I'm the one who can't now!!
THUMP
I CAN'T DO THAT.
IF I SLEEP TOO LONG, I'LL CREATE A OPENING.
Plop
OPENING... FOR THE BEASTS?
KEMOMO WOULD TELL YOU WON'T HE?
DON'T YOU TAKE HIM WITH YOU FOR THAT?
THAT GUY GOT SEPARATED FROM HIS FRIENDS AND JUST FOLLOWED ME.
HE PROBABLY THINKS
I HAVE A SIMILAR PRESENCE LIKE THEM.

IS THE HOME OF A BEAST.
INSIDE MY BODY
Huh...?
BEASTS THAT ATTACK PEOPLE USUALLY ONLY EAT THE FLESH BUT
THERE ARE ALSO THOSE WHO DON'T EAT THE BODY BUT THE SOUL.
THE BEASTS HAVE NO FORM OF THEIR OWN, IT EATS PEOPLE'S SOULS AND
USES THAT HUMAN AS A HOST.
I WAS EATEN BY THIS BEAST WHEN I WAS A KID.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR A PERSON TO STAY IN A BODY THAT HAS BEEN EATEN BY A PARASITE...
EVEN I KNOW A LITTLE ABOUT BEASTS.
THAT'S A LIE...
...MY LIFE
WAS SAVED BY MY ONLY RELATIVE, MY OLDER SISTER.
MY SISTER
RAN OUT IN FRONT OF ME WHEN I WAS GOING TO BE EATEN.
SHE OFFERED HER OWN SOUL.
BECAUSE OF THAT, THE BEAST WAS FULL,
AND DIDN'T COMPLETELY DEVOUR MY SOUL.
THAT'S WHY, EVEN NOW,
I STILL HAVE MY SELF-CONSCIENCE.

IF I SLEEP FOR A LONG TIME, GET INJURED, OR WEAR MYSELF OUT AND DECREASE MY PHYSICAL STRENGTH
SUPPRESSING IT IS BECOMES QUITE EXHAUSTING.
IT'S STRUGGLING TO DEVOUR ME AND BECOME FREE.
EVEN NOW, IF THERE IS A CHANCE,
THIS THING WON'T GIVE UP ON TRYING TO EAT MY SOUL.
THE ONLY ANNOYING THING IS THAT
Why do you try to live...
Even after such an experience?
UNLESS YOU HAVE A STRONG WILL...
AND TO SUPPRESS THE BEAST CONTINU-OUSLY...
TO HAVE A PARTLY DEVOURED SOUL...
...I GUESS
I'M ONLY ABLE TO SUPPRESS THE BEAST NOW BECAUSE
MY SISTER'S SOUL IS STILL HERE
AND IS PROTECTING ME.

"As I thought, are you sad... because Mother isn't here?
"Hibana."
She lost her body.
Our souls are still
TOGETHER.
...But
"...Nope"
You can't even ascertain
her voice or appear-ance.
"Father is here!"
'For my sister...
Even if it's painful, I'll live no matter what'
...Is what Tsugumi believes, right?
Won't come back but
That warmth that I could cuddle
"Father..."
"Come back already..."
"I'm not alone so it's alright."

I CAN'T BE...
I CAN'T THINK LIKE THAT.
STRONG LIKE THAT...
JOLT
!?
FWOOSH
IS IT NEARBY?!
A BEAST'S PRESENCE ...?!
dash
YOU'LL JUST GET FRIGHTENED IN FRONT OF THE BEAST ANYWAY.
WAIT!!
grab
grab
LEAVE ME ALONE! LET GO!

pull
!!
IF YOU HAVE SOME FIRM RESOLVE
TO FIGHT AGAINST THE BEASTS OR THEN I WON'T STOP YOU.
BUT IF YOU'RE JUST RECKLESSLY THROWING YOUR LIFE AWAY,
I'LL STOP YOU EVEN IF I HAVE TO CRAWL.
I
W-
...TCH

WHY...?
.....
ARE YOU ALSO TRYING TO TELL ME TO LIVE ON WITH A STRONG WILL?
"TO GO TO A VILLAGE THAT EVEN THE POLICEMAN HAVE GIVEN UP ON..."
"HIBANA'S FATHER WAS A WONDERFUL EXORCIST."
"FROM NOW ON,"
THEN...
WHAT ABOUT MY FEELINGS?
"LIVE A PROPER AND HAPPY LIFE,"
"ON BEHALF OF YOUR FATHER AS WELL."
'IF HE WAS GOING TO DIE FOR THE SAKE OF THE PEOPLE.'
'THEN I WANTED HIM TO LIVE FOR MY SAKE.'
'IF HE WAS GOING TO LEAVE ME ALONE,'

Who will accept those for me?
'THEN I WANTED TO DIE WITH HIM.'
THAT IS WHAT I FELT.
ENTRUST THEM
TO SOMEONE YOU'LL MEET LATER ON.
TO SOMEONE YOU MEET, WHO WANTS TO LIVE ON WITH YOU.
TO THEM.
...
TELLS YOU THAT.
TRY LIVING UNTIL SOMEONE
pat
...THAT'S RIGHT

IF TEN YEARS HAVE PASSED AND YOU HAVEN'T FOUND SUCH A PERSON,
I'LL LOOK AFTER YOU.
!!
ROOAARR
IF YOU DON'T FORGET ABOUT ME THAT IS.
AH, HERE HE IS.
IT SEEMS HE'S TAKEN QUITE AN OFFENSE.
GROWL

DASH
STAY BACK, OK?
TSU-GUMI...
whoosh
FWUMP
ROOAAARR
THUD
ARE YOU AFTER ME?
ALRIGHT, COME AFTER THE GUY WHO GAVE YOU THAT SHALLOW WOUND.
GLARE

ROAAAR
LAND
glide
SLICE
...?
SPLO
SH
ROAAAR
FWIP
ROOOOOAAARRR
ROAAARR
I put in more speed and strength into that attack.
Was it too shallow?!
He's so good.
...
gaze—

People...
It consumed a few people...
thud
shake
PULL
It'd be bad to take too much time.
GRAB
I haven't completely suppressed this beast
ba-dump
That's been struggling for a while now.
WHIP
grab
!!
CRAP...!!
TSUGUMI!!
DRAG
PIERCE

TCH
ROOOAARR
PULL
ROOOAAARRR!!
GRAB
KEMONO
!!

...WAIT THERE QUIETLY. IT'LL BE OVER SOON.
OUCH...
STAY THERE!
TSU-GUMI...
I CAN'T DIE THAT EASILY.
UNFORTU-NATELY,
Tsu-gumi...
...!
ROOOOAA
AARRR!!

SLASH
crumble
KOOOAA!!

he did it!!
...!
hug
GEEZ...
clink
!!
THUD
Huh...?!
!?
...
shock
DON'T COME!!
TSUGU...
...Tsugumi
Can it be...?!
ba-bump
HAH...
TCH
UGH...
HAH...
Grasp

The beast that doesn't have a form
Is creeping out of Tsugumi.
It's devouring...!!
gasp
creep
It's trying to devour him.
Afraid that he'll be devoured from the inside...
And become someone he's not.
Crap.
BA-BUMP
My wound's deep...
creep
I can't suppress it...
I don't usually sleep at night
If I give it an opening, it'll want to struggle
Tsugumi is always...
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP

To endure that fear

All alone...

...BE CALM
Weak...
...!
STOP!
PUSH
PLEASE, BE CALM!

I Finally
But...
BA-BUMP
CALM DOWN!!
...BE CALM
BA-BUMP
Can't do much
DON'T EAT
TSU-GUMI...!!
clench
My power...
BA-BUMP
I Finally Found him.
The person that I want to
Live on with.

...HI
...BANA
I don't want to
Lose him.
...!!
TSUGUMI!
YOU'RE TSUGUMI RIGHT?! RIGHT?!!
TSU-GUMI...?
TSUGU...
...SHUT UP. I HEARD YOU THE FIRST TIME.
HUG

...I WAS SAVED
BECAUSE YOU PROTECTED ME.

THANK YOU.
Father
...YEAH
I understand a little now.
...SO
Even just a little,
I have the strength to protect something with my life.
I'm not so weak as to throw my life away.

Thanks to Tsugumi.
I feel like I have it.
CAN YOU STAND, COWARD?
S-Shut up
YOU'RE LEAVING THIS TOWN?!
ASTONISHED
I'VE MADE UP MY MIND!
I'VE ALREADY BID FAREWELL TO THE MONK WHO LOOKED AFTER ME.
Take care
WHAT?!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU THINKING?!
ON TOP OF THAT YOU'RE GOING WITH TSUGUMI AND TRAIN AS AN EXORCIST?!

munch
munch
YOU'RE EATING TOO MUCH!!
HEY, YOU SAY SOMETHING AS WELL...
IT WAS A MUCH MORE SERIOUS WOUND THAN I THOUGHT.
IT'S FOR MY RECOVERY, RECOVERY.
HEY, IT'S OK RIGHT? EVEN I WAS HELPFUL.
BESIDES,
I-
I'LL LOOK AFTER YOU...
TSUGUMI SAID THAT.
TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY.

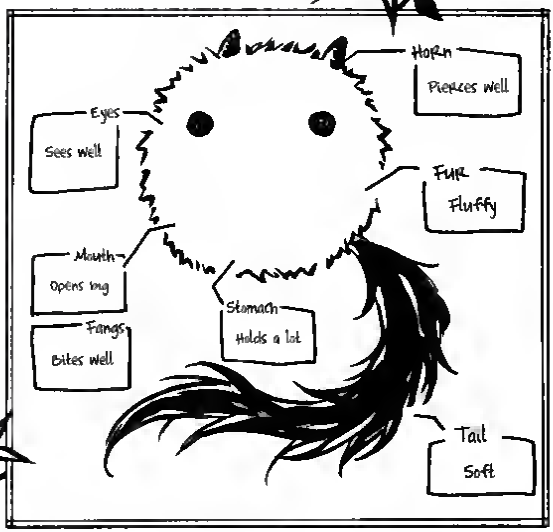
But...
I can't wait ten years.
OH WELL.
TMP
I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT...
I DID SAY THAT BUT
Look after ...?!
Is that appeal!?
!?
!!
It was about ten years later anyway
PERIO
AS TROUBLE-SOME AS YOU BY THEIR SIDE ANYWAY.
ONLY I WOULD HAVE SOMEONE
There are still,
HIBANA
EH?!
WE HAVEN'T TALKED ABOUT YOUR REWARD...
THANKS FOR THE FOOD!
WELL,
It hasn't been said.
I've been rewarded enough

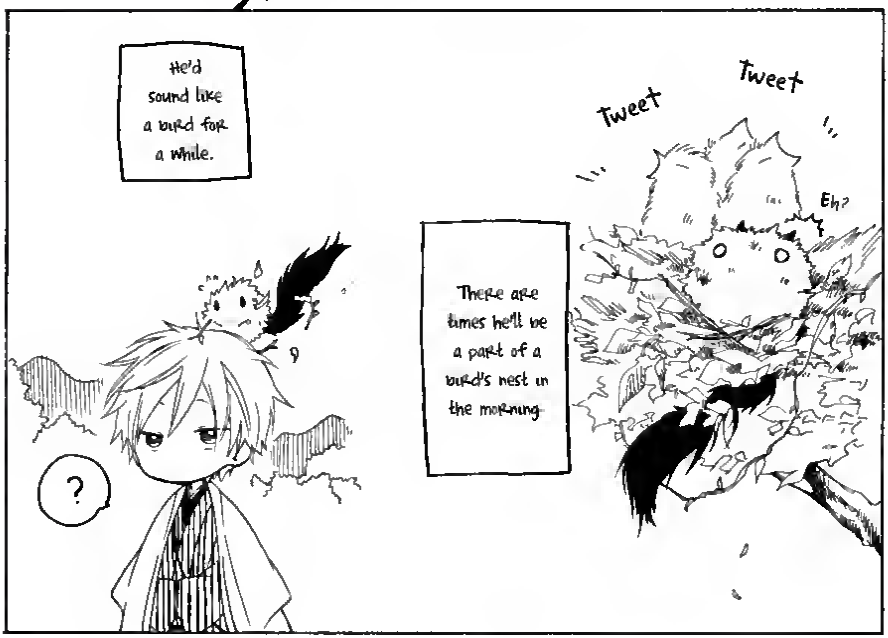
I'LL LEAVE YOU BEHIND.
From the person I want to live on with,
Words I haven't heard you say yet.

Mad Hatter Scans
Madhatterscans.haneuri.net
Pleasant-memories.com
Kage ni Saku Ha ch 1
Translator: Mattie
Cleaner: Zippy & Em
Typesetter: Ringo
Quality Checker: Amelie
raw provider: EM

第二話
Chapter 2

Kemomo's Body Diagram





I want to become a light.
If your soul is still
Within the depths of darkness

FLAP
CAAWW
FLAP
FLAP
IT'S HERE
JUMP
Not good. It's the west of town.
That's where she went to patrol.
DON'T YOU DARE
DO SOMETHING STUPID UNTIL I GET THERE, COWARD.
OUMA GATOKI
clang
clang
clang
clan

CRASH
UWAAAAAHH ?!!
HURRY INSIDE!
IT'S...
clang
clang
clang
clang
EARLY EVENING,
WHICH INDICATES THE COMING OF THE BEASTS.
RUMBLE
A SHADOW BEAST HAS AP-PEARED!!
AHH!!
STOMP

W-...WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
Do?
I DON'T WANT TO BE EATEN--!!
!!
clang
!!?!!
HOLD IT!!
YOUR PREY IS OVER HERE!!
IF I can just lure it out of the town...
Don't, little miss! It's dangerous!!

WHAAAAT?!!
SLAM
OUCH ?!
HUH
THUD !!
THROW
SNAP
GROWL
?

SLAM
TSU-
TSUGUMI!
...
I WAS A LITTLE LATE, HUH.
!
SUDDENLY RUNS
OH!
THE BEAST IS RUNNING BACK HOME!!
TCH...
IT'S FAST.
I GUESS IT'S A WASTE OF TIME TO CHASE IF I DON'T HAVE MY SWORD.
Flutter
Flutter

T/N: "to get frightened and be stupid". Tsugumi plays with his words by breaking them up, hence the weird phrasing.

GULP
HIBANA.
...NOT ONLY DO YOU LOSE POWER IN YOUR WAIST BUT ALSO SMARTNESS*, EH?
SHUT UP!
HURRY UP AND LET ME DOWN!!
struggle
struggle
Hmm
I DO HAVE PERFECT AIM, IF I MAY SAY SO MYSELF.

IT IS EARLY EDO.
AS EXPECTED OF A BEAST HUNTER!
WOOAHH!!
YOU CHASED AWAY THAT BEAST WITHOUT CAUSING A SINGLE CASUALTY!
YOU'RE AMAZING!!
THUD
IN ORDER TO EXTERMINATE THE BEASTS THE SHOGUNATE CREATED CONSTABLES AND SENT THEM TO DIFFERENT DOMAINS BUT
THAT SUPPORT WAS ALWAYS TOO LATE FOR THE INCREASING DAILY ATTACKS.
WERE MONSTERS CALLED "SHADOW BEASTS".
TENS OF YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE END OF WHAT WAS LATER CALLED THE DECISIVE BATTLE
THE THINGS THAT DISTURBED WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN PEACE
Oh, I'm sorry!
HNNN
YUM.
THERE ARE ALSO PEOPLE WHO WORK PRIVATELY TO EXTERMINATE BEASTS.
IN THIS KIND OF WORLD

AND EXORCISTS WHO USE THE UNUSUAL POWER THEY HAVE TO EXORCISE THE BEASTS.
...DON'T WANT ANY.
DON'T YOU WANT ANY MOCHI?
HUNTERS WHO EXTERMINATE USING FORCE.
?
CURRENTLY, WE'RE STAYING IN THIS TOWN TO EXTERMINATE BEASTS.
I AM AN EXORCIST IN THE MIDST OF TRAINING.
ICHIYANAGI HIBANA.
He's eating a lot.
Ahh
A TRAVELLING HUNTER, KUROKADO TSUGUMI AND
E o c e!~
BUT IT'S YUMMY.
E o c e!~
What a pity.
WE WILL PAY.
How much will it cost?
OOOH!
There are still more!!
Here!
YOU TWO ARE THIS TOWN'S SAVIOURS!
DON'T BE SHY! EAT, I'LL TREAT YOU!
YES YES!

THAT BEAST HAS ALREADY EATEN 2 PEOPLE.
SOUTA FROM THE BACK ALLEY HOUSE AND THE YOUNG MAN FROM THE DRY-GOODS STORE.
THREE DAYS AGO, HIKOKICHI WHO SELLS COLD DRINKING WATER, HAD HIS ARM EATEN.
ANYHOW, IT WAS BRUTAL.
EVERYONE ELSE'S LEGS WERE FROZEN.
STILL, LITTLE MISS ISN'T ALL SHE SEEMS. YOU ARE BRAVE.
Huh?
NII-SAN, COULD YOU PLEASE NOT FLATTER A NOVICE.
SHE ISN'T BRAVE BUT RECKLESS.
IN OTHER WORDS, LACKING AND RASH.
WELL, I'M SOR-RY!!
He's right though...
clench
WELL,
IF IT WAS ME IN THAT SITUATION,
I WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME.
Tsugumi is...

I had lost Father, my only family
And had become self-abandoning.
He is one who showed me the road to life.
BUT IN YOUR CASE,
YOU SHOULD FIX THAT STUPIDNESS AND COWARDLINESS OF YOURS.
He says too much though...
I can't permit that
Oh dear
Sigh
...WANT TO GO BACK TO THE INN AND REST?
Hmm
I'M FINE, I'M FINE.
YOU HAVEN'T SLEPT AT ALL THESE TWO DAYS.
THIS IS HOW IT ALWAYS IS.
Within Tsugumi's body,
Resides one shadow beast.

That beast is still within Tsugumi, along with his sister's soul.
His soul wasn't consumed completely so his conscience is still intact but
When he was about be consumed by the beast, his older sister, his only family protected him.
That is a beast which has no body, eats people's souls and live in their bodies.
Continuously threatening Tsugumi's soul.
The beast waits for a chance as Tsugumi sleeps to fight,
When his body is weak because of sickness or injuries,
GROOOWLL!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
But then,
One day he'll collapse in front of a beast.
That's why not sleeping much is "always how it is"...
SIP

WOOF
KEMOMO ?!
Woah!
JOLT
woof
woof
I THOUGHT YOU FELT THE PRESENCE OF A BEAST.
HERE.
TO BE AFRAID OF A STRAY, HOW SHAMEFUL.
Don't scare me like that
tremble tremble
The power to calm down beasts is my only power,
Which I inherited from Father, a famous exorcist.
SIGH
IT'S ALRIGHT.
It's still weak and won't work on strong beasts but...
Even just being close by like this,
...

Prob-
ably...
Is it of
any help
though...?
Just
a little,
It sup-
presses the
monster
inside
Tsugumi.
Even
more...
I get
closer
...like
Close
enough to
touch...
ba-dump
SAYING IT
WITH SUCH
AN ATTITUDE.
Dammit
SHUT
UP!
Shock
... EVEN YOUR
FACE LOOKS
STUPID NOW.
Oh

Part Two

Thinking about the balance of both characters needing each other, I came up with Hisana's character which would go well with Tsugumi's character.

Which is why if I lose sight of Tsugumi's character, Hisana's will be lost as well.

I always kept in my mind the "stubborn negative" concept.

Now that I think about it, I don't quite understand it anymore.

WILL YOU STOP? THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES SO...
APART FROM NEAR THE CASTLE, EVERYWHERE ELSE IS ABANDONED BY THE SHOGUNATE.
EVERYONE HERE IS THANKFUL EVEN FOR AN UNSKILLED HUNTER.
TO THINK YOU'RE A HUNTER.
I HEARD YOU LET A BEAST GET AWAY RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE.
EVEN THOUGH HE HAS NO INTENTION OF GETTING RID OF THAT BEAST AT ALL.
HE JUST WANTS US TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR FOOD AND SHELTER.
WAIT A MINUTE!!
AREN'T YOU JUST IN THIS TOWN TO HAVE ANOTHER TASTE OF BEING TREATED?!

TSUGUMI DOESN'T THINK SUCH PETTY THINGS!!
DON'T SAY RUDE THINGS!!
STOP STOP.
OK
WHAT?!
LAST NIGHT, IF...!!
STAY OUT OF THIS USELESS GIRL!
WHAT DIDJA SAY?!
!
pat
LAST NIGHT WAS MY ERROR.
IT'S AS YOU SAY.
GLARE
!!

I'LL KEEP IN MIND THERE IS NO NEXT TIME.
TCH!
...
That's not right.
...No.
Won't get angry at things like that.
...but
Tsugumi
IDIOT.
DON'T JUMP AT EVERY PROVOCATION THOUGHTLESSLY.
I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
THEY'RE NASTY THUGS.
It's because Tsugumi saved me.
If he hadn't let go of his sword...

This can't go on!
HEEEY
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO NIGHTWATCH.
IT'S FINE!
pant
pant
tap
clang
WHEN THAT BEAST APPEARS AGAIN
I'LL REDEEM MYSELF!
DON'T
WAS THERE ANYTHING TO REDEEM IN THE FIRST PLACE...
for you
Plus,
Tsugumi's barely sleeping,
so how can I...
Ah!
SHOCK
Beast
Rest without...
Over here!
01.
CARE?!
SLAM

I guess one day and night is impossible.
Ow ow
油
OIL
It's almost dawn and
Tsugumi's room,
The light's still on...
It's what I thought but...
He doesn't intend to sleep again...
Slowly burning
click
!
THUMP

GASP
TSUGUMI?
YOU'RE GOING OUT ON NIGHT PATROL RIGHT?
sigh
IT'S BEST IF YOU SLEEP...
THUMP
THUMP

WELL, A LITTLE...
DID THE BEAST FIGHT BACK...?
COULD IT BE...
I COULD SUPPRESS IT MYSELF SO IT WAS NOTHING.
... NO.
BUT...
...Tsugumi.

clench
at all
I can't refute that
DON'T WORRY AND GO TO SLEEP.
IF YOU'RE THAT EXHAUSTED, I CAN'T DO NIGHT PATROL IF I TAKE YOU.
clack
No matter how "usual" this is
It's not alright,
AH,
U-UHM...
No matter
How much Tsugumi says he's alright...
Can do for him now...!!
The little that I
clench
When he's making such a painful face.
ba-dump
IF...
I-
I'LL-
I...
IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THE BEAST GOING OUT OF CONTROL...
ba-dump
ba-dump
UMM...
I STILL THINK IT'S BEST IF YOU REST.

I'LL SLEEP WITH YOU!
I
I said it...!!
NO,
I'LL PASS ON THAT.
AH

Don't reject so readily!!
BUT!!
I'VE BEEN LIKE THIS FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS.
IT'S NOT
SOMETHING YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT NOW.
...TCH
I DON'T CARE ANYMORE.
GOOD NIGHT!!
...
I
SEE...

Then Tsugumi doesn't
...What's with him?
Need me at all...
IDIOT.
IDIOT. IDIOT.
GIVE ME BACK A WHOLE LIFE'S WORTH OF COURAGE!!
GRRRRRRR--
Disgrace!!
I'll become

The meaning of life, find.
What Tsugumi helped me, who had lost
That is
"An existence that he needs."
He was my light.
Rustle
Could it be...?!
Rustle
!?
RUSTLE
Ahh, How pathetic.
wipe
wipe
twitch
GULP

EVER SINCE THE BEAST APPEARED,
EVERYONE'S BEEN PRAYING TO THE GODS. IT'S FULL O' COINS.
IS THERE EVEN ENOUGH MONEY WORTH TAKING?
yeah
Aren't those two the ones who picked a fight at the Dango shop...?
...No.
NO ONE'S AROUND.
HURRY UP.
The beast...!
How despicable...
Fumes
slam
BANG
...!!
AH...
?

ROOAAR
UWAAAAAAA!
!!
Oh,
IT'S THE HUNTER LAD.
YA LOOKING FOR THE LITTLE MISS?
I SAW HER AROUND THE SHRINE JUST OVER THERE A WHILE AGO...
SHUDDER
GEEZ,
WHERE'D SHE GO...?
A beast...!!
!
Uwa!
WHAT?!
TTEOOOOOM

It's near the shrine...!
...!
ROOOAARR
ba-dump
I did it again...
I
ba-dump
Legs went numb when she threw her shoe.
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
...!

LANDS
Tsu-...
WHOOSH
GRRRRRR
ROLL
ROLL

THUD
JUMP
WAH!
WAHH !!
THUD
TSUGUMI?!
SHUT UP, YOU'LL BITE YOUR TONGUE!
THUD
LAND
SMASH
CRUNCH

No...is the parasite responding to that beast...?
!?
WHAT HAPPENED...?
THUMP
...TCH
I thought I'd die.
gasp
gasp
EVEN IF I CLOSE THE DISTANCE...
IT'S STUPID BUT IT'S FAST.
Tch
IF I CAN'T STOP ITS MOVEMENTS COMPLETELY, I CAN'T AIM AT A VITAL POINT ACCURATELY.

!!
SLAM
THUD
!
...
TSUGUMI!
STAY THERE!!

LAND
Just stay there.
GROOWWWL
ROAAARR
JUMP
!!
SLAM
THUMP
!!
...!
Tsugumi.
STAGGER
I...

Can't restrain myself.
Even if I'm reckless
And rash.
I still want to become
Tsugumi's

Light.
STOP
!!

EH...?
...
IT STO-
...
NO WAY.
Phew
GLARE
FOR A SECOND !!
Gyaahh!!
ROOOOARR
JUMPS

LAND
THAT'S ENOUGH!
HII
THRUST
ROOAA
AAR
CRUMBLE

CLINK
CRUMBLE
I-...
ba-dump
...
ba-dump
Ah
Crap, he's angry...
I COULDN'T HELP IT!!
MY BODY JUST...
DID YOU SEE IT?!
MY POWER WORKED!
IT'S LIKE A DREAM.
stand
IT WORKED ON A BEAST OTHER THAN KEMOMO! EVEN JUST A MOMENT!
ON SUCH A LARGE BEAST!!

YOU'RE ...
RECKLESS-NESS IS REALLY
BAD FOR THE HEART.
pat
WHAT'S WITH THAT ATTITU-...!
annoyed
THANK GOD...! YOU'VE SAVED OUR LIVES! WE'RE INDEBTED TO YOU!!
AH... YOU'RE BOTH O.K.!
YOU DID THAT BEAST IN...
Huh...?
What?
Isn't he angry?
HOW-EVER,
YOU DON'T NEED TO FEEL IN-DEBTED.
WE ONLY DID OUR WORK AS HUNTERS.

I'LL HAVE YOU TAKE BACK YOUR WORDS,
THOSE THAT CALLED HER USELESS.
RIGHT?...

Tsugumi
...
I'm very sorry!!
...WHAT'S WITH THAT?
?
Mmm
THE ONE THAT THINKS
I'M NOT USEFUL THE MOST IS TSUGUMI.
W-WELL, MY LEGS MIGHT GO NUMB WHEN I TRY TO EXORCISE,
BUT MY POWERS AS AN EXORCIST ARE SOMEWHAT USEFUL.
... YET YOU DON'T RELY ON ME.

I'M SCARED.
IT'S NOT REALLY LIKE THAT.
...YOU ALWAYS LIE.
THEN WHY...
EVEN MORE THAN BEING CONSUME BY THIS BEAST,
IT'S CLOSING MY EYES THAT
I'M SCARED OF.
My sister's agony in death and my soul being consumed.
I hear...
In the darkness where I'm consumed by the beast,
It replays freshly in my mind
If I close my eyes from the light,

I hate that. Even if I reject sleep,
I reach my limit
And have to close my eyes.
Then I have a nightmare and wake up.
It just repeats.
...THAT'S WHY
IT'S NOT THAT
I DON'T NEED YOUR POWERS.
IT'S JUST THAT I'M A COWARD.
...I'M PATHETIC.
IDIOT!
I

But I only thought about myself.
The idiot
NOT...
NO, YOU'RE
I kept telling myself it was for Tsugumi's sake.
Is me...
...I'M GOING TO...
CLOSE MY EYES FOR A BIT SO...
Yawn
ALMOST AT MY LIMIT...
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
I GUESS I'M...
STILL ...
Sigh

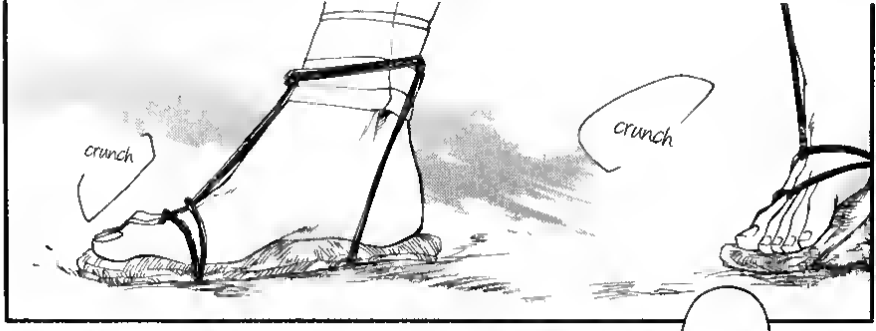
STAY NEXT...
TO ME.
...He's breathing
Deeply in sleep.

THEN THE BEAST WON'T EVEN APPEAR AGAIN.
LAD! I HEARD YOU KILLED THE BEAST!!
Wow!
We're the ones who shouldn't appear.
Thus is...!
Opps.
I want to become strong
As quick as possible
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF DREAM HE'S HAVING.
No matter how much
I hope there comes a day where you can rest well in your dreams.
Tsugumi hesitates.

Thanks for the souvenirs!!
Come visit us any time!!
Thank you!!
If I am beside him
We can definitely find the light.

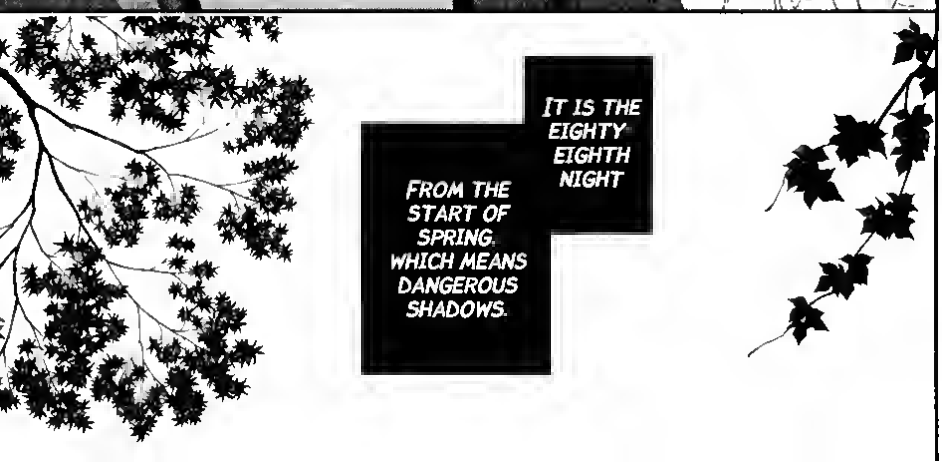
Mad Hatter Scans
Pleasant Memories Scans
Madhatterscans.haneuri.net
Pleasant-memories.com
Kage ni Saku Ha ch 1
TRANSLATOR: MATTIE
CLEANER: PACIFIER
TYPESETTER: RINGO
QUALITY CHECKER: AMELIE
RAW PROVIDER: EM

第三話
CHAPTER 03


crunch
crunch

TCH-
THIS TOWN HAS A LOTTA PEOPLE.
chatter

CAN'T EVEN SMELL A BEAST.


IT IS THE EIGHTY EIGHTH NIGHT
FROM THE START OF SPRING. WHICH MEANS DANGEROUS SHADOWS.

Hmm...
BUMMER.
I LOST HER.
THESE SHADOWS ARE BORN OF DARKNESS
AND BECOME BEASTS THAT CONSUME HUMANS.
ROAAARR
thud
thud
!!
trip
AHHHHHHHHH!!
I'M GOING TO DIE..!!

LANDS
HIBANA.
KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN
STOMP
AAAHH
STOMP
AHHHH !!
SLASH
UMPH.
NOOOOOO

CRUMBLE
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU DOING AGAIN
IDIOT.
Huh?
...TSUGUMI.
WE WERE LOST FROM THE START!!
THANKS TO YOU WE'RE LOST.
Hides
KEMOMO FELT THE BEAST'S PRESENCE SO I CHASED HIM...!
DON'T GO ALONG, IDIOT.
Panic

IT IS EARLY EDO.
A TIME WHERE MONSTERS CALLED SHADOW BEASTS SCARE PEOPLE.
THE SHOGUNATE CREATED "SHADOW BEAST EXTERMINATION SOCIETY" TO DEAL WITH THE BEASTS BUT
THE BEASTS ARE STRONG THE CITIZENS OF VILLAGES WHERE PROTECTION COULDN'T REACH PASSED SLEEPLESS NIGHTS.
AS A RESULT, PEOPLE WHO EXORCISE BEASTS FOR A LIVING APPEARED.
PEOPLE WHO EXTERMINATE USING STRENGTH ARE 'HUNTERS'
THOSE WHO HAVE A STRANGE POWER AND PURIFY BEASTS ARE 'EXORCISTS'.
Yawns
CAN'T CATCH ANY FISH AT ALL~
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... WE'VE BEEN LOST.
AND CAMPING IN THIS MOUNTAIN FOR THREE DAYS NOW...
I... nk.
ENGSHHH

'HUNTER' KUROKADO TSUGUMI.
'EXORCIST' (AMATEUR) ICHIYANAGI HIBANA.
Hmm
MAYBE THE BAIT'S BAD.
I WANT TO FISH UP SOMETHING LIKE A RIVER GOD IN ONE GO.
DON'T NEED ANYTHING LUXURIOUS...
BUT AT LEAST A ROOF WOULD BE NICE...
NO!! DEFINITELY NOT!!
YOU CAN EAT IT,
Right?
LIVING BEETLE
This
rustle rustle
'SMALL SHADOW BEAST' KEMOMO.
What are you thinking?
!?
Sail...
...!!
Hey.
Scurry
NO! FISH! GET SOME FISH! OR AT LEAST CRAYFISH!!
WE CAN IF WE FRY IT,
Right?
It'll be fine when it's in your stomach.
Naaa cool!
Oh
GOT SOMETHING!
Pull
OUR JOURNEY HAS COME TO AN END.
Pull

...DOES HUNGER BECOME A 'CHANCE' FOR THE BEAST?
HMM...
I GUESS SO.
THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW OMNIVOROUS YOU CAN BE.
IT'S BETTER THAN AN EMPTY STOMACH THOUGH.
A BEAST LIVES WITHIN TSUGUMI'S BODY.
HIS SOUL WAS ALMOST DEVOURED WHEN HE WAS YOUNG. NOT THE NORMAL MAN-EATING ONES,
BUT A PARASITE THAT DEVOURS THE SOUL.
HIS SISTER SAVED HIM AND HER SOUL NOW LIVES WITHIN HIM ALONG WITH THE BEAST.
TSUGMI IS CONSTANTLY IN DANGER
OF THE BEAST THAT STRUGGLES AT ANY CHANCE.
AND HIBANA
HEY...
UM.

INHERITED THE POWER TO SUPPRESS THE STRUGGLING BEAST
FROM HER LATE FATHER, A FAMOUS EXORCIST.
TELL ME, ...OKAY?
IF IT BECOMES DANGEROUS
IT IS STILL WEAK.
But
That's just rude!!
Amateur
Sigh
FOR YOU TO BE WORRIED ABOUT ME...
SHADOW BEAST... AS IN...!
!
FOLLOW US. THERE'S A TOWN AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS MOUNTAIN.
IT'S DANGEROUS HERE. SHADOW BEASTS COME OUT!
YES, WE'RE KIND OF LOST.
YOU TWO OVER THERE! HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND. ARE YOU TRAVELLERS?
O-I!

Part Three-One

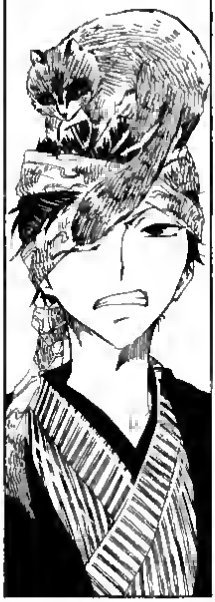
Kemomo the mascot I drew in a manga that was rejected. I'm glad that he gets to be seen.

He growls and hisses like a cat but doesn't have his own cries. He doesn't understand when humans speak but moves according to how he reads the situation. though I have not been able to show that in this manga. It's kind of a pointless detail.

snaps
!
WHICH DAMN GREEDY STRAY DOG WAS IT?!
SHOCK
EXTERMINATING THE BEAST IN THE TOWN WAS MY JOB!!
YA GOT GUTS TO TAKE MY JOB!
stomp
stomp
WHO'S A STRAY?!
AND WHO ARE YOU?! SO RUDE!!
...
I'M HAI-TAKA.
YOU THE HUNTER THAT DEFAMED ME?

Part Three-Two

It's the third chapter so I thought it's about time for a new character. I made him the same as Hibana and Tsugumi, their rival. The cloth around his head always slows me down. Even though it's part of of his character, I always forget the cloth. Again, I just thought it'd be good if he was a little taller and thinner than Tsugumi.



CLASH
THIS GUY...?
SHADOW-HOUSING BASTARD.
YO, LONG TIME NO SEE.
I MISSED YA.

MUST BE SOME FATE TO MEET YOU HERE.
チャキ
CLICK
YOU'VE REALLY RUN AROUND ESCAPING UNTIL TODAY.
I'LL BE EX-TERMINATING YA-
!
...!
SLAM

WHAT THE HELL ARE YA DOING, DAMMIT?!
I SHOULD BE ASKING YOU THAT!!
WHAT WAS THAT ALL OF A SUDDEN?!
カミなっ
gets up
STAY OUT OF THIS.
Whisper
I'LL WAIT FOR A CHANGE TO THROW HIM OFF. RUN WHEN I SIGNAL.
HUH...?
WHO THE HECK IS THAT FUSSY GIRL?
YOUR WOMAN?
?!
WH-?!
SHE'S NOT ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
DON'T MAKE WEIRD ASSUMPTIONS.

W-
Well I guess that's true.
blush
gasp
Ah.
Now's not the time for that!
Y-YOU CALLED TSUGUMI A SHADOW-HOUSER...
WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT...?!
NAH.
A SHADOW-HOUSE IS A HUMAN WHOSE SOUL WAS EATEN BY A SHADOW BEAST AND IT LIVES...
IT'S A SHADOW BEAST IN HUMAN FORM.
IT'S A MORE DANGEROUS AND TROUBLESOME EXISTENCE THAN A FULL-POWERED BEAST.
IN HUMAN FORM IT MAKES PEOPLE LET THEIR GUARD DOWN AND THEN EAT THEM.

He knows yet he still...
He knows about Tsugumi...
This person...
THAT BASTARD THERE'S SOMEWHAT AN EXCEPTION AND HAS CONSCIENCE BUT
WE CAN'T KNOW WHEN THE BEAST WILL TAKE OVER.
IF THE BEASTS ARE GUNNA ENTER OUR TURF
THEY'LL GET EXTERMINATED FOR SURE.
DO YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEM
WITH A HUNTER HUNTING A SHADOW-HOUSER, LADY?
HIBANA
IT'S OK.
OF COURSE I DO!! TSUGUMI IS...
...!

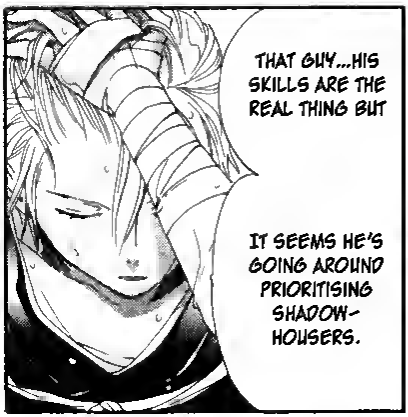
!
THAT HE'S A DANGEROUS EXISTENCE TO HUMANS.
IN OTHER WORDS HE ADMITS IT HIMSELF.
THAT GUY'S NEVER DENIED WHAT I SAID.
YOU. SHUT UP FOR A SEC, LI'L GIRL.
UGHH...
WHY?!!
ARE YOU JUST GOING STAY SILENT AND LET HIM SAY ALL THIS?!
I SYMPATHISE WITH YA. MUST BE QUITE SCARY
GLAD
TO LIVE KNOWING YOU COULD LOSE YOURSELF AND SUFFERING.
THAT'S WHY...
I'M SAYING THAT I'LL MAKE IT ALL BETTER FOR YOU!!
PIERCE
!?
Grab

SPLASH
...!!
STOP
YA RUNNING AWAY AGAIN...?
!!
CHOMP
OW!!

WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT?!!
runs off
!!
.....
DAMN FURBALL!!
hides
click
A beast is a beast.
vssshhh
No matter which human you're in...
Hell, as if I'd let you escape.
Gasp
SPLASH
PIOP

shiver
shiver
HE'LL FIND US IMMEDIATELY.
WHY'D YOU JUMP IT SUDDENLY?
IF WE DON'T CONCEAL OURSELVES FOR A BIT.
HE HAS A GOOD SENSE OF SMELL.

HUSH
YOU ALIVE?
I thought I'd die...!!
splash
pant
pant


THAT GUY...HIS SKILLS ARE THE REAL THING BUT
IT SEEMS HE'S GOING AROUND PRIORITISING SHADOW-HOUSERS.

IS HE REALLY A HUNTER?! NOT JUST SOME GUY WHO'S TESTING OUT HIS NEW SWORD?!
SO, WHO IS HE?
THAT GUY... HAITAKA?

!
THE FIRST TIME I MET HIM WAS CLOSE TO TEN YEARS AGO.

I'VE BEEN ATTACKED A FEW TIMES IN THE PAST BY HIM.

"But no matter how much ya act human..."
Hmm...
You're disguised as a human pretty well.
"A beast is a beast."
"Shadow-Houser"
...Shadow-Housers are...
are jobs with normal beasts no good?
...But why does he target Shadow-Housers?
So rude from the first meeting.
But I hadn't seen in him the past few years
So I thought he gave up.

EVEN THOUGH THE SOUL IS IN CONTROL BY THE BEAST
THE BODY IS STILL HUMAN.
THERE ARE MANY HUNTERS WHO HESITATE IN THOSE CASES.
THAT'S WHY HAITAKA TAKES THE INITIATIVE
ON THESE JOBS THAT OTHER PEOPLE HATE.
IT'S LIKE HIS RESOLUTION OR CONVICTION.
THE REASON YOU DON'T DENY ANYTHING HE SAYS
...
IS IT BECAUSE YOU CAN'T DENY THAT RESOLUTION...?
IT'S MORE LIKE...
I CAN'T DENY.

"For the sake of the world and its people."
I've thought before that I should just
Take that blade
...
BUT...
!
I'M AWARE OF THE DANGER OF SHADOW-HOUSERS.
IT'S LIKE HE SAID.
MY SISTER'S SOUL IS STILL
HERE, WITHIN ME.
EVEN IF IT'S THIS KIND OF LIFE
I DON'T WANT TO REFUSE IT.
WHEN I CAN FEEL THE WARMTH
OF THOSE MEMORIES
His sister's...

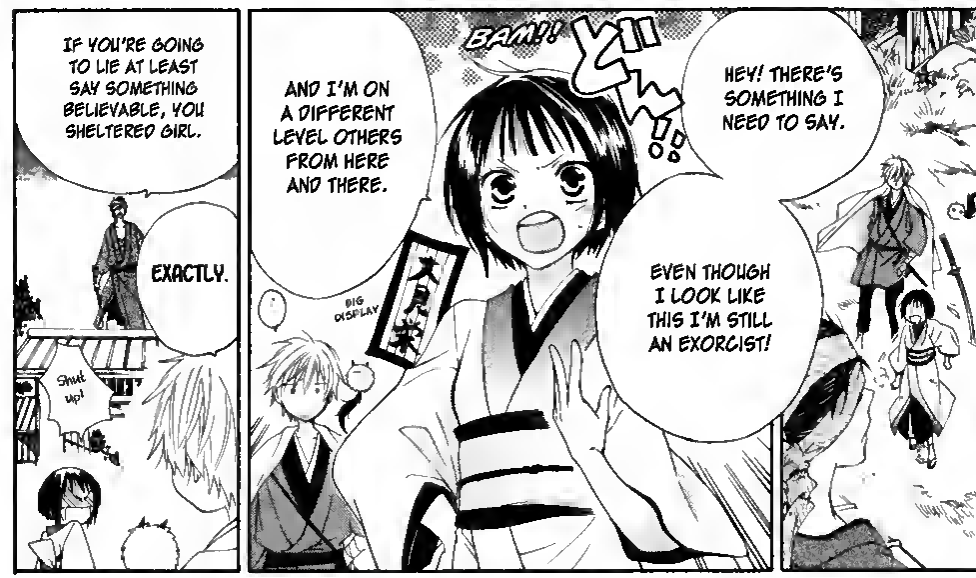
When Tsugumi thinks of his sister
Continues to support him even now
Who saved him and
I WANT TO STAY HUMAN.
clench
Tsugumi can make that kind of face...
What should I do...?
Is there...
...
shake
I don't even have a bit of sentiment...
shake
YOU COLD?
...
ACHOO!

pat
!?
I'M SOAKED TOO
SO IT'S PROBABLY NO USE, HUH.
BUT IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHING RIGHT?
What should I do?
If you do things like this
ba-dump
Uwa.
...Y-
YEAH.
ba-dump
ba-dump

I'll become greedy.
clench
...
HIBANA.
GKROWWLL
AHH!
WHACK
!!
rustle
BONK
!!
OH, KEMOMO.
You're safe.
THAT GUY'LL PROBABLY TRACK OUR SCENT SOON.
LET'S LEAVE.

IN THE END WE'RE CAMPING AGAIN...
DON'T BE LIKE THAT.
MICE ARE USUALLY FINE TOO.
Glint
NO THEY AREN'T!!
I don't want to eat diving beetles.
Huh?
WHOOSH
HIBANA !!
WHOOSH
STAB
AAAAHH !!

HAITAKA...!
!
THE SUN'S ABOUT TO SET SO
WHERE ARE YOU GUYS GOING?
YOU...!


IF YOU'RE GOING TO LIE AT LEAST SAY SOMETHING BELIEVABLE, YOU SHELTERED GIRL.
EXACTLY.
Shut up!
AND I'M ON A DIFFERENT LEVEL OTHERS FROM HERE AND THERE.
BAM!
どん!!
BIG DISPLAY
HEY! THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO SAY.
EVEN THOUGH I LOOK LIKE THIS I'M STILL AN EXORCIST!

AS LONG AS I, WHO CAN SUPPRESS THE BEAST, AM BY HIS SIDE
I WILL NOT ALLOW TSUGUMI TO BECOME A BEAST RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE.
Tsugumi's human soul...
I'll be the one who'll protect it.
CAN YA FINISH IT OFF WHEN THE TIME COMES?
THEN LEMME ASK THIS.
...REALLY?
BACK
...!
I said it...!

...GIRL, CAN YA
IF THAT BASTARD OVER THERE BECOMES A BEAST
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
KILL HIM? THAT'S WHAT.
YA CAN END HIS LIFE, YEAH?
YA CAN'T RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY I'M SAYING I'LL KILL HIM FOR YA.
IF YA THINK OF HIM AS A HUMAN EVEN ONCE,

...DON'T KID WITH ME!
DON'T YOU FEEL ANYTHING AT ALL?!
HIBANA.
...AHH.
I GOT RID OF IT AGES AGO.
THAT TROUBLE-SOME THING...
WHEN I WAS TEN
THE FIRST SHADOW-HOUSER I KILLED
WAS IN THE FORM OF MY MOTHER.
Suddenly
No words or thoughts got through to her. It...

Gyaahh!
I'LL GET KILLED.
Started to eat
All my brothers one after another.
I ...
I HAVE TO DO IT.
...
THEN YOU...
YOUR OWN MOTHER...?
...

He was saying those words to himself.
It was like
NO.
THE THING I KILLED WAS A SHADOW BEAST.
STAY BACK, HIBANA.
...AND YOU. DON'T THINK YA CAN...
JUMP
I DON'T NEED TO
HAVE THINGS LIKE FEELINGS TO KILL A SHADOW BEAST.

KEEP CLINGING TO THAT "HUMAN" FORM!!
CLASH
OR ARE YA UNDERESTIMATING ME?!!
OH YEAH...
YA'VE NEVER DRAWN YOUR BLADE AGAINST ME.
YA INTEND NOT TO DRAW IT AGAIN?
SO NAÏVE...
STOP IT ALREADY!!
..!
!
grab
IDIOT, STOP...
DON'T HINDER...!

SLICE
...
I-
SLAM
OW!
Wha-!

!!
SLAM
...

CLANG
This presence is
Crap.
UGH...
GRAB
Those
He's lost himself in anger.
!!
SNAP

SHUDDER
Are eyes of a beast.
aiiio
Gaaa

Tsugumi.

CLATTER
HIBANA.
...
THAT WAS
...
A BIT DANGEROUS...
The beast's presence has been
Sup-pressed...?
...
He was definitely..
Being controlled completely though..

DID I SCARE YOU?
...I'M SORRY.
clench
tremble
.....
NO.

...
I SEE.
I'M SORRY.
GULP
...YEAH.
That li'l girl...
She's a complete coward but...

MONSTER! DON'T COME CLOSE!!
WE'LL GET KILLED TOO!!
SOMEONE, SAVE MUM...!!
MUM! IT'S ME! CAN'T YOU SEE?!
IF at that time
And had the heart to jump in then
IF someone could forget their fears
I had someone with her power
Beside me..
...HAITAKA,
DON'T DISAGREE WITH YOUR CONVICTION.
I...
!
SO STUPID...
...!
Tch.
Something might
Have changed
...

IF YOU CAN'T FORGIVE MY EXISTENCE THEN
THEN COME AFTER ME.
!?
...BUT
IF YOU HURT HIBANA NEXT TIME
I WILL NOT HOLD BACK.
...!

If she hadn't come between us
I would have died.
Was that supposed..
To be holding back?
...
I'LL HAVE TO START AGAIN.
CAN'T WORK FOR A WHILE IF BOTH BLADES ARE WRECKED.
OI, LI'L GIRL!
WHAT?!
Who's a little girl?
I'LL DEFINITELY FINISH THAT BASTARD OFF.
UNTIL THEN

GOT IT?
KEEP IT IN CONTROL.
Chomp
Ow!
Haitaka...
THE CUT'S NOT THAT BAD...
SHOW ME YOUR FACE,
Ugh
That'll heal.
dip

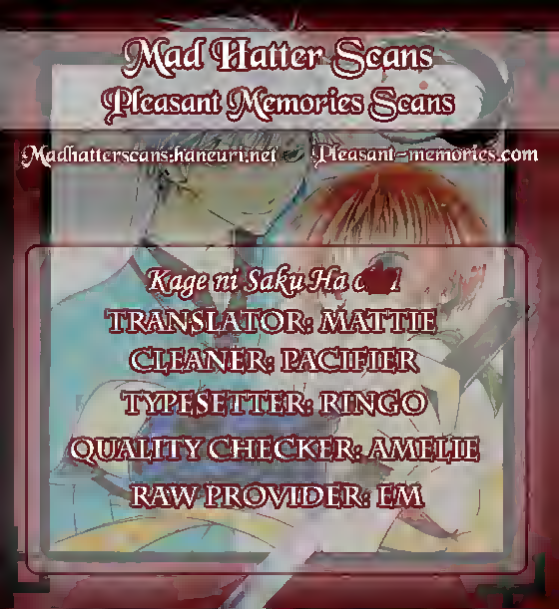
Pat
JUST SHOW ME.
Grab
WAH!
IT'S THE FACE OF AN UNMARRIED WOMAN.
...TAKE CARE OF IT.
...I'M SORRY...
...OKAY.

HAITAKA WON'T GIVE UP ON ENDING MY LIFE JUST LIKE THAT.
HE DOESN'T CONSIDER SHADOW-HOUSERS AS HUMANS.
SORRY FOR DRAGGING YOU INTO THIS.
?
NO...
I SHOULD APOLOGIZE.
YOU...
THINGS LIKE THESE WILL PROBABLY HAPPEN.
IF YOU'RE WITH ME
I WON'T FORGET...
COVER
EVEN SO,

EVEN IF IT WAS JUST MERE WORDS, TSUGUMI YOU TOLD ME,
WHO WAS LOOKING TO DIE, THAT YOU'D LOOK AFTER ME.
SOMETHING LIKE THIS
ISN'T A GOOD REASON TO ABANDON ME.
It seems I'm getting
More and more greedy.
RIGHT?
When Tsugumi wishes

To stay human,
When warmth fills
Him up as he remembers people precious to him,
Even if it's just a tiny bit,
It'd be nice if he thinks of me too.
WELL, YOU WON'T LISTEN TO ME ANYWAY...
You hold a grudge against that!
I'm an idiot,

KAGE NI SAKU HANA / END


Mad Hatter Scans
Pleasant Memories Scans
Madhatterscans.haneuri.net
Pleasant-memories.com
Kage ni Saku Ha c 1
TRANSLATOR: MATTIE
CLEANER: PACIFIER
TYPESETTER: RINGO
QUALITY CHECKER: AMELIE
RAW PROVIDER: EM

子どもは大人の夢を見る
Children Dream Adult Dreams

Ever since I was young,
In place of my parents who have mostly been living overseas because of work
I had things like
Books of every possible genre and heaps of toys.
From the things I was given so I wasn't bored, I used the knowledge from the books and used parts of toys
And made a robot that can walk on 2 legs when I was three.
Clang
Clang
ALRIGHT!
IT'S DONE!!
HEHE
The invention and construction is my,
Izuki Hodaka's (Age 7) special skill.

DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
GEH.
Now, the only person who'd treat me like a kid would be...
Speaking of which, my skills would put adults to shame.
SHE'S HERE.
SO SLOW, BRAT.
click
IT'S FINALLY OPEN.
Haa
Annoyed
!!
Kusunoki Yayako (Age 17).
It'd only be her.
SORRY FOR INTRUDING.
DON'T CALL ME BRAT!!

Yayako, my neighbour,
Come in and out of my house often.
Crash
She works part-time as my housekeeper.
It's always curry stew and fried rice
IT'S BETTER THAN FROZEN FOOD OR CUP RAMEN.
STEW AGAIN?
YOUR COOKING RANGE DOESN'T INCREASE AT ALL...
TADAA
AND SO, LOOK AT THIS!!
IT'S MY NEW INVENTION! COMPLETELY AUTOMATIC COOKING ROBOT "COOKING ACE RH#3"!!
IT'S AN EXCEPTIONAL ROBOT THAT'LL DO EVERYTHING FROM PREPARATION TO SERVING THE FOOD AUTOMATICALLY IF YOU JUST INPUT THE RECIPE!!
TAH-DAH
IT EVEN HAS A TASTE-TESTING FUNCTION! IF YOU INPUT WHAT YOU LIKE IT WILL AUTOMATICALLY REMOVE EVERYTHING YOU HATE...
IT'LL RECOGNISE INGREDIENTS USING THE CAMERA AND ADJUST THE FIRE USING THERMOGRAPHIC SENSORS.
?!
SEALED.
HUH?!
WHY?!!
FLIP
IF I HAD THAT THEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MY FOOD AND
I WON'T HAVE TO BE LOOKED AFTER BY YAYAKO...

PULL
STEP...
SHE ALWAYS TREATS ME LIKE A KID.
BUT THAT ENDS TODAY.
I'm not a kid anyway...
...Not really.
IF YOU EAT DINNER BY YOURSELF.
IT'D BE BORING, RIGHT?
PLUS, YOU WILL DEFINITELY ON END UP EATING WHAT YOU LIKE.
Jolt

ど
ど
THE BODY AND AGE CHANGER GATE (PROTOTYPE)!!
WITH THIS INVENTION OF THE CENTURY
THAT I SPENT AN ENTIRE YEAR TO FINISH!
Alright
Let's go!
AND SO!
Thump thump
THE ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES STIMULATE THE CELLS AND IT TEMPORARILY CHANGES YOUR AGE, YOUR HEIGHT TO WHAT YOU SET IT AS!
WHEN YOU PASS THROUGH THE GATE, IT REACTS TO THE HEAT OF THE BODY AND LAUNCHES. THEN...
Ngo ngo ngo
If I use this then I'll make her treat me like an adult for sure!!

!!!
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
!
...?
CRACKLE
?
MAYBE HE'S NOT HOME YET.
!
It's open...
GEEZ, WHERE'D HE GO OFF TO...
CLICK
!?
YO!
YOU'RE SO CARELESS, GEEZ...
CLICK

BAM
Hmph
SO YAYAKO,
LOOK AT TH-...!
YOU'RE LATE!
GAH!!
!!
WHO ARE YOU?! WHERE'D YOU GET IN FROM?!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING DAMMIT?!
UWAAH!!
BURGLAR?! ROBBER?!
WHAT?!

WHERE'S THE BRAT? WHERE'S HODAKA?!
IF YOU DID ANY-THING TO HIM
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU!!
BA-BUMP
Huh?
SCRAMBLE
Wah! Wah!
GAAHHH!
Now
TELL ME!!
SO SUSPI-CIOUS...
I DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT ANY SIBLINGS.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT YOU LOOK SIMILAR TO HIM BUT...
Geh!
EH?
AH.
HODAKA...?!
!?
Calm down!!
IT'S ME, ME!! I'M HODAKA!!

I'M HODAKA'S OLDER BROTHER WHO'S BEEN ON EXCHANGE IN AMERICA.
Y-Y-EAH!
That's right!!
Not good. She doesn't believe me at all..
Uhhmm..
I'M HOZUMI!
EH?
REAL-LY...?
THEN WHERE'S HODAKA?
AH... HE'S...
YOU JUST MISSED HIM. HE'S IN AMERICA...
BACKS AWAY
AMERICA?!
W-WELL THERE ARE HEAPS OF INFORMATION ON INVENTION TECHNOLOGY OVER THERE!!
I'VE HEARD EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU FROM HIM!
And then..
Let's leave it at that!
With this form, I'll make her see me as a guy...
Such a gentleman at heart

Too bad it's just me!!
It's too late even if you realize it now!!
Just like this!!
I-I SEE...
IT'S PERFECT!!
Oh no
That felt good~!!
NO NO, IT'S OK.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!!
HA HA HA
LEAN
S... SORRY
FOR MISUNDER-STANDING...
And for hitting you.
I'LL GET IT FOR YOU.
I WAS GOING TO MAKE KIMCHI HOTPOT AND BOUGHT THE INGREDIENTS...
SO... WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I'LL MAKE IT FOR YOU, SO EAT IT.
As an apology.
THE HOTPOT...
IT'S UP TOP RIGHT?

BANG
AH.
HERE YOU GO...
OMG!! So tall!!! I can reach!!
THANK YOU...
BONK!!!
I-
IT WASN'T ON PURPOSE!!
... WAS THAT REVENGE FOR WHAT HAPPENED...?
I Failed... Failed...
I THINK I MADE TOO MUCH...
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
OOOH!!
IT LOOKS GOOD!!
AH!
DON'T AVOID THE VEGETABLES. YOU SHOULD EAT IT TOO.
Bubble
Pro-bably
GEH
WHO CARES...
Bubble
Y-
YEAH.
THEY HAVE KIMCHI HOTPOT OVER THERE TOO?
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE. I LIKE IT SO MUCH I CAN EAT IT FOR A WEEK STRAIGHT!

Come again
But...
What do I have to do to make her acknowledge me...?
Hmmm...
I thought if I grew bigger it'd do it but...
THEN YOU'D JUST BE THE SAME AS BRAT.
JUST LIKE A KID.
This is like how it normally is!!!
No no!!
It's kind of like...
It's the first time I've seen..
She's with her school friend...
Yayaka...!
!
And so it was like...
I mean sono ushy
I know right?

Like a total stranger.
Wha!?
Why am I hiding ?
BY THE WAY ARE YOUR PARENTS STILL ON BAD TERMS?
YAYAKO?
Huh?
YEAH, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE IT JUST HAPPENED TODAY.
I'VE GIVEN UP SO IT'S OKAY.
See you!
Plop
Sigh
I've only met them a few times.
Yayako's parents...
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS THEN COME OVER
YOU CAN LIVE IN IF YOU WANT!
THANK YOU.

CHILDREN DREAMS ADULT DREAMS

This is my debut work. It was rejected once but luckily I somehow debuted with it. I only just realised that with the name Hozumi, the full name would be Izumi Hozumi, a two-man comedy act combo.

AH.
YEAH!
She never told 'Hodaka' anything...
... DON'T SAY ANYTHING
ABOUT THIS...
WE ONLY JUST MET.
AND THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD ABOUT IT...
YEAH I DID!
AT ALL TO BRAT.
IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU TALK ABOUT WITH KIDS.
What...
It's that reason again...
UWAAAAHH!!
NII-CHAN BROKE BEETLE ROBOT~~!!
IT WASN'T ME!
Uwaahh

SHOUT
GAH!! YOU'RE ANNO-YING!
ANNO-YED
DON'T CRY, GIVE IT HERE!
WAIT, YOU...
CLINK
Pop
Ah
THE INSIDES PROBABLY JUST AREN'T CONNECTING.
I'LL FIX IT IN TEN SECONDS.
CLINK
CLINK
CLICK

TADA!
SHINK
SHINK
Woh
IT MOVED!!
THANK YOU ONII-CHAN!!
Hmph
TAKE CARE OF IT.
.....
I'LL GIVE THIS TO YOU AS THANKS!
OH
THIS
WOAH?! THIS IS THE LEGENDARY ULTIMATE MECHA.
HERCULES SECRET VII!!
And it even shines!
IS IT SOMETHING GREAT...?
?
IT'S NOT JUST GREAT!!
THIS IS THE TOP CLASS MECHA THAT CAN ONLY BE FOUND ONLY IN A LIMITED NUMBER OF BEETLE ROBOTS!!
AND IF YOU COMBINE IT WITH MIYAMA, YOU CAN USE IT ON LAND AND WATER WITH THE POWER OF 100 THOUSAND HORSE POWER...
Gasp
BRAT ALSO LIKED THAT KIND OF STUFF...

LOOKS LIKE AS IF BRAT HAS JUST GOTTEN BIGGER.
IT REALLY
Crap...
YOU'RE ALSO GOOD WITH MACHINES LIKE HIM.
BUT AS EXPECTED OF BROTHERS...
DID YOU GO ON EXCHANGE IN AMERICA FOR THE TECHNOLOGY?
I REMEMBER THERE WAS SOMETHING LIKE THAT FOR BRAT TOO.
THEY ASKED IF HE'D SKIP GRADES AND GO TO AN OVERSEAS UNIVERSITY.
I don't remember that...
Wonderful!
We would welcome such a genius in our University...
BUT THAT BRAT...
EH?
Y...YEAH.

"I wanna be with Yayako-nee!"
"No no no! Not going anywhere!"
I-
NEVER SAID ANYTHING LIKE THAT!!
What are you getting worked up about it..?
BUT... I WAS HAPPY.
BECAUSE THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO THOUGHT ABOUT ME LIKE THAT.
MY PARENTS HAVE NEVER THOUGHT OF ME THAT WAY BEFORE.

IF IT'S THOSE TWO.
IF I DIDN'T EXIST THOSE TWO WOULD JUST GET DIVORCE ANYWAY.
!
.....
YOUR PARENTS CAN'T BE THINKING THAT.
THEY DO.
"WHAT'S WITH THIS TEXT?"
"YOU'RE STILL SEEING THAT WOMAN?!"
"Mom..."
「.....」
"Go over there."
"I'M BUSY TOO!!"
"WHAT ABOUT YOU?! YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING AT HOME..."
THERE'S NO HOPE IN SAVING THEM.
THEY SHOULD JUST DIVORCE ALREADY.

"We can't do anything since she's still small."
"If there was no child then I would get a divorce any time...!"
IS WHAT THEY SAID.
THAT'S WHY I WANT TO BE INDEPENDENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THAT'S HORRIBLE...
CAN YOU EVEN CALL THEM PARENTS?!
PARENTS, IN THE END, ARE JUST HUMAN.
IT'S PAINFUL TO LIVE WITH SOMEONE YOU NO LONGER LOVE.
BUT...!
ARE YOU OK WITH IT!?
!.....
EVEN IF I MAKE A RUCKUS NOW
IT WON'T DO ANYTHING.
PISSED
What's with that?

Complete
Complete
You say such adult-like things!!
You say it like it's reasonable.
What's with that anyway?!
CLACK
Ahh!! I don't care anymore!!
Here!
Sorry for the wait!!
One Hamburger patty with Demi-glace sauce
I TOLD HER TO TAKE TIME OFF WHILE 'HOOAKA' ISN'T HERE
BUT EVEN WHEN I CHANGE BACK I'M FINE WITHOUT YAYAKO!
Ohhh
IT'S COOKED PERFECTLY!
AS EXPECTED OF MY INVENTION!!
Sizzle
Clatter
Clatter
"WHAT IS THIS? REDBEAN RICEBALLS?"
"IT'S A HAMBURGER PATTY! PATTY!"
"GEEZ, YOU'RE SO ANNOYING."

Clatter
"THIS LOOKS GOOD!"
"SEE, ONCE IT'S COOKED IT LOOKS BETTER."
"IT'S SO WEIRD!"
"WHAT IS THAT?"
RATTLE

"I'M YAYAKO."
"WHAT ABOUT YOU?"
"MADE IT?! YOU DID?! ALL OF IT?!"
"WOW!!"
"I'LL BE HELPING OUT IN YOUR HOUSE FROM TODAY."
"PLEASE TREAT ME WELL."
Gah
"SERIOUSLY?"
"WHAT? YOU DON'T LIKE IT?"
"WITH ONLY YOU IN THIS HUGE HOUSE..."
"DON'T YOU GET LONELY?"
"NOT REALLY."
Lonely before
I've never felt

Clatter
This invention is a failure...
BECAUSE..
YAYAKO WAS ALWAYS...
IT TASTES BAD.
I'M NOT...
LIKE AN ADULT AT ALL...
It doesn't feel like a strategy anymore.
I should change back...
HM?

JOLT
YAYAKO...?
!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT THIS TIME?
AREN'T YOU GOING IN...?
I THINK I'M AT MY LIMIT.
IT'S FINALLY STARTED.
W-WHAT WAS THAT?!
XIII
CUT IT OUT YOU DIMWIT!!
CRASH
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
!?

YOU CAN HEAR IT ALL THE WAY OUTSIDE...
Ugh
AHH...SO EMBARRASSING...!
Yayako...
Like as if you understood everything...
Even though you were all high and mighty...
...I don't get it.

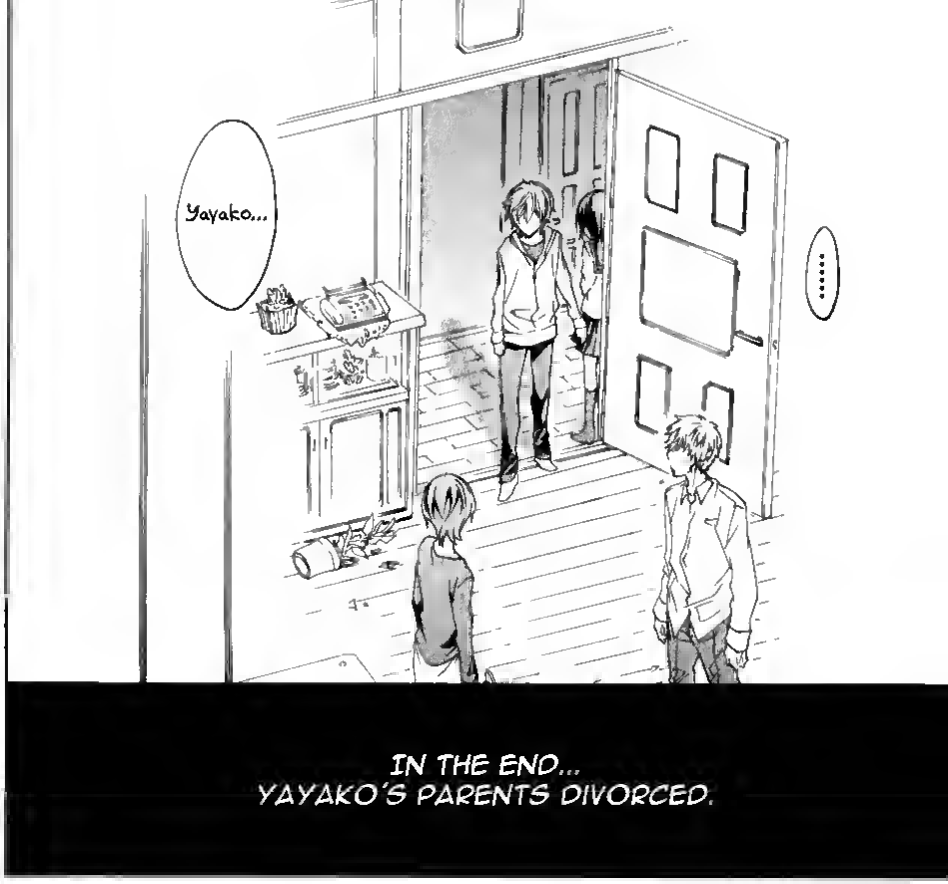
EH?
In the end, you're scared.

I know that nothing will happen even if I cry...
I know that much at least.
I'm not a child...!!
THAT YOU CAN'T CRY IF YOU'RE NOT A CHILD...
WHO MADE THAT A RULE?!
The me now...

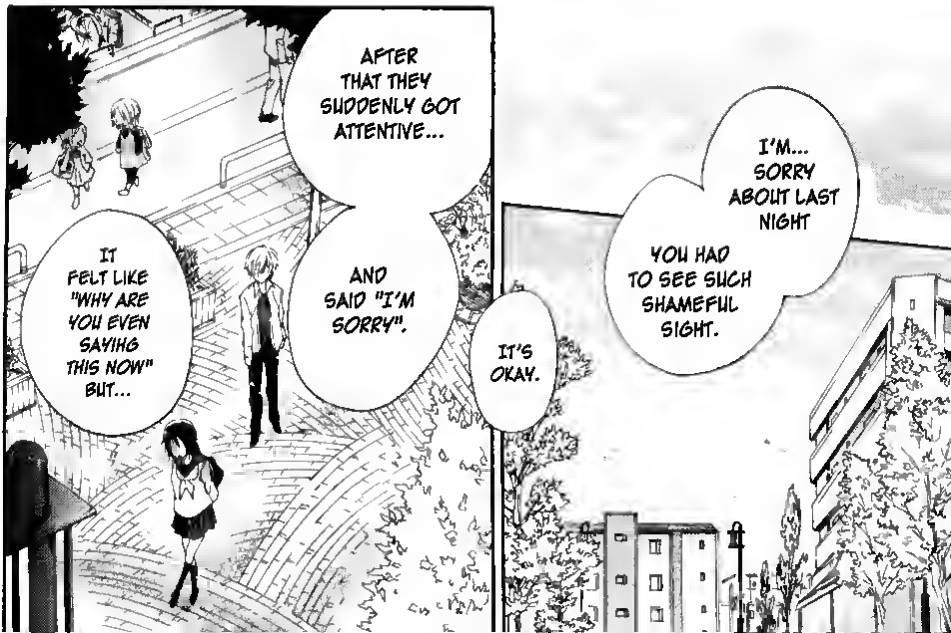
The strength I'm pulling you with,
This form,
Are fake but,
I want to protect you.
HO-ZUMI...

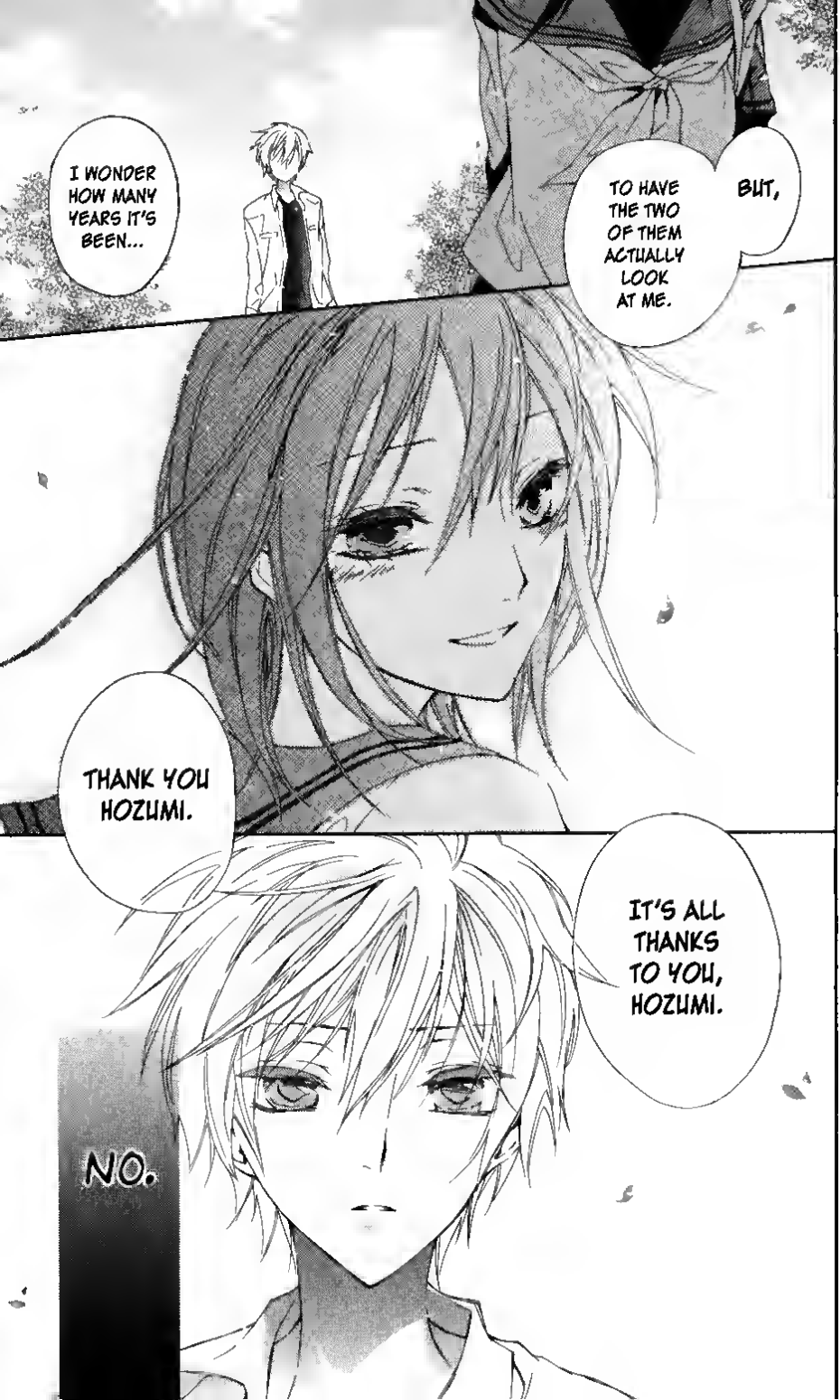
BANG
!?
Who are you..?!
!
Yayako..?
Wh..?
YOU'RE ADULTS,
DON'T DO UNSEEMLY THINGS LIKE RAISING YOUR VOICE...!
Wha...
!?
What?! This has nothing to do with you, right?!
y- Yes...!
A child has no place in adults' problems!!

DON'T BE SELFISH AND
IF YOU'RE "ADULTS" THEN THINK OF PEOPLE'S...
THINK ABOUT YAYAKO'S FEELINGS!!
MAKE YAYAKO CRY!!
!!!



IN THE END...
YAYAKO'S PARENTS DIVORCED.


AFTER THAT THEY SUDDENLY GOT ATTENTIVE...
IT FELT LIKE "WHY ARE YOU EVEN SAYIHG THIS NOW" BUT...
AND SAID "I'M SORRY".
IT'S OKAY.
I'M... SORRY ABOUT LAST NIGHT
YOU HAD TO SEE SUCH SHAMEFUL SIGHT.


I WONDER HOW MANY YEARS IT'S BEEN...
BUT, TO HAVE THE TWO OF THEM ACTUALLY LOOK AT ME.
THANK YOU HOZUMI.
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, HOZUMI.
NO.

I...
crackle
COULDN'T CHANGE ANYTHING.
flap
That's right...
I was just screaming about "stuff that didn't matter".
crackle
Let's change that.

So that Yayako
WITHOUT USING THIS INVENTION.
Doesn't have to hold back her tears.
So that she doesn't have to cry.
I will truly become
A true adult.
By myself.
WELCOME HOME, BRA-
...T.
MESS

Rustle
THERE'S NO JOB FOR YOU TODAY!
I MADE IT FROM SCRATCH.
Oh...
I see...
I MADE CURRY!
CAN'T YOU TELL BY LOOKING?
WHAT'S THIS?
CLUTTER
Bubble
Bubble
HURRY UP AND SIT.
IT'S MY BEST WORK, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF! AFTER YOU EAT THIS THEN.
I WON'T LET YOU MAKE THAT DARK EXPRESSION ANYMORE!

It might take some time but,
I take one step at a time.
LET'S EAT!
SH-SHUT UP!
WHAT'S WITH THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN...?
YOU'RE WEIRD.
HM.
IT'S OKAY.
JUST OKAY?!
IT'S DELICIOUS.
IF BRAT'S OLDER BROTHER WAS HERE FOR ONE MORE DAY...
WE COULD HAVE EATEN TOGETHER...
!?
BA-DUMP

Wait for me, Yayako.

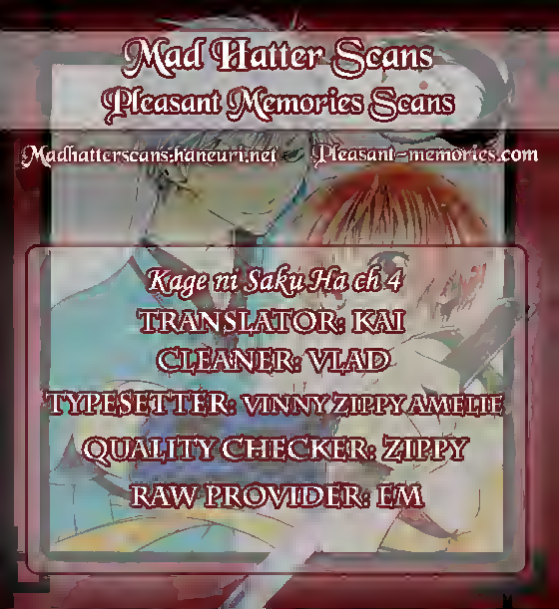
This means...
I can't really take it slowly...

To everyone who has supported me.

E-chan, my comic has come out!!
H-tan, thank you for everything!
K-tan, let's keep working hard together!

To my manager, S-san, who has
guided me from my debut,
To everyone who read this,
Thank you very much!!

Tomofuji
Yuu dual!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